

# Explore It FOR LEADERS



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## THE STRANGER ON THE BEACH

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**John 21:1-14 Jesus appears to seven followers**

**AIM: To learn about Jesus' surprise on the beach**

In today's story the disciples returned to what they knew best. They gathered together and went fishing! As morning came, they had nothing to show for all their hard work – and then someone on the beach took them by surprise. In this session we'll find out who that was, and find interesting ways to retell the story.

Each child will need:

- An A5 piece of paper and pens/pencils
- John 21 handout
- Spare paper (optional) – see Tell It section
- Resources to create thanksgiving fish (dependent on which activity you choose) – see Pray It section

You will need:

- Pens and a flip chart or large sheet of paper

### Start It

**Say:** In today's story the disciples share a delicious breakfast with Jesus on the beach. Have a think about your dream breakfast. Don't say the answers out loud but think about these questions.

- What would you have to eat?
- Where would the breakfast take place?
- Who would you invite to share breakfast with you?

Give each child a piece of A5 paper and ask them to draw or write down their dream breakfast. They may need to move away from the other members of the group so that they can't see each other's ideas. When they have finished recording their ideas, collect them in and then read them out one by one. See if the group can guess which dream breakfast belongs to which child.

### Sing It

**Say:** As we move on to the next part of our story, we find the disciples gathered ready to go fishing. By now, they had seen Jesus alive and were still getting used to this amazing news. Our song for today reminds us that, just like the disciples, we can be excited that Jesus is alive.

'Jesus is Alive' by Kids Ablaze Inc (2 mins 21 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzxN0D3voo0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzxN0D3voo0)

## Tell It

**Say:** Last month we read the story of Jesus when he called the disciples to be fishers of men. As we find them gathered on the beach in today's story, so much had changed. They had followed Jesus, listened to his teaching, and witnessed him dying on a cross. They had been surprised by his appearance in the upper room and were still trying to understand what was going on. We find them today back where they started, at the beach, trying to catch some fish.

### Video

*Breakfast on the beach* – A Resurrection Story of Jesus by Bible Blocks (3 mins 8 mins)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=18KsIGbKqsl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18KsIGbKqsl)

Give each child a copy of John 21:1-14 (ICB). Jot down the key events of the story on a flip chart and discuss the following questions.

### Discuss:

- How do you think the disciples felt when they didn't catch any fish?
- The disciples had seen Jesus and heard his voice many times but did not recognise him. In what way does this surprise you?
- What happened that helped the disciples to recognise Jesus?

**Say:** We watched a clip where the story of the breakfast on the beach was told through animated wooden characters. There are lots of different ways to tell stories.

Ask the children to think of the many different ways they could retell the story of the breakfast on the beach. Can they think of any surprising ways to tell the story? The children can work on their own or in small groups to plan or create an alternative way to tell the story. Provide paper in case they wish to write down ideas. Link this activity with the *Explore It For Me* task, where the children can try out their story-telling ideas at home.

## Action It

**Say:** As the disciples gathered with Jesus on the beach their hearts were full of love for Jesus.

**Ask:** What do you think they were thankful for?

**Say:** Our memory verse for this month reminds us of the importance of saying words of thanksgiving and praise to God. Let's share it together.

### Memory verse

**'You are my God, and I will thank you.  
You are my God, and I will praise your greatness.  
Thank the Lord because he is good.  
His love continues for ever.'**

— (Psalm 118:28-29 ICB)

**Say:** Today we are going to create a net full of thanksgiving fish to remind us of the breakfast on the beach and the way Jesus showed love to the disciples.

### Thanksgiving fish

Create a display of thanksgiving fish to fill a net. There are a number of ways this can be created depending on the resources you have. Here are two ideas to get you started:

- Create a wall display using netting and showing the beach and the water. Ask the children to cut fish out of coloured card and write something they are thankful for on each fish.
- Do this individually by giving each child a net bag and ask them to cut out mini-fish to write on. They could write words of thanksgiving on each fish or take some blank fish home to use throughout the week.

## Pray It

Using the ideas from the Action It activity, lead a time of praise and thanksgiving with the children. Encourage each child to share something they are thankful for, and then join together to sing 'Grateful' by Elevation Worship.

### Video

'Grateful' official lyric video by Elevation Worship (4 mins 6 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7eVr-OUYkQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7eVr-OUYkQ)

## Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

APRIL  
SESSION 04

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## FOR ME



### Create

In today's session you thought of lots of creative ways to retell the story of Jesus at the beach with his disciples (John 21:1-14). Try out one of the ideas and create your own retelling of the story.

## TOGETHER



### Give

Is there anyone at home who deserves their dream breakfast? Find out what it is and then surprise them one morning. You may need to ask someone else at home to help out.



### Song for the week

'Jesus is alive' by Kids Ablaze Inc

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzxN0D3voo0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzxN0D3voo0)



### Memory verse

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### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

*Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

